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Government's policy regarding housing.

* 49 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have formulated their policy regarding (i) urban housing, (ii) housing of industrial workers and (iii) rural housing, and if so, what it is;

(*b*) whether the Government of India have intimated their policy and the amount of assistance they are prepared to give in regard to any or all the aspects of housing and if so, what their offer is; and

(*c*) whether this Government have accepted the conditions, if any, on which such assistance is forthcoming?

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" (*a*) The Government have formulated their policy in regard to urban housing to improve which, the formation of co-operative house building societies is encouraged. The Government assist these societies by the grant of loans by assisting them in the acquisition of house-sites and by procurement of building materials like iron and steel, cement, etc. As regards housing of industrial workers and rural housing the Government have not yet formulated their policy.

" (*b*) & (*c*) The Government of India have announced their policy and the amount of assistance they will be prepared to give, only in respect of housing of industrial workers. Under their scheme the Central Government will provide an interest free loan to the extent of two-thirds of the capital required for housing industrial workers and the remaining one-third will have to be provided by the Provincial Government or an employer sponsored by the Provincial Government. The scheme is under examination."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know, Sir, whether at least in regard to new industries which are going to be started, the Government will insist on the employers providing housing accommodation to their workers; before they begin to function? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" I do not know of any law, Sir, which insist on the provision of housing accommodation for industrial workers by new industries even before they have begun to function."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the industrialists in this Province have been consulted, or whether they will be consulted by the Government, before the Government send their reply to the communication of the Government of India? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" Certainly, Sir, if the industrialists are prepared to act according to the conditions of the Government of India scheme the Provincial Government would do everything possible to support them

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and give them financial assistance if necessary in regard to the housing of industrial workers and they will certainly be consulted in the matter."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Will not the Government take the initiative themselves and ask the industrialists whether under these conditions, they are prepared to build houses for their workers and if they fail to do so, the suggestion made by my hon. Friend Mr. Sarma may be considered?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" That suggestion will be considered, Sir."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know what the Provincial Government propose to do in regard to their own industrial workers in the matter of housing them?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" If our financial position improves, we will certainly do our best in that matter, Sir."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" May I know, Sir, the date on which the Government have formulated their housing policy and whether any steps have been taken to implement their policy?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" We are examining the question, Sir, and immediately we take a decision in the matter, we shall place it before the House."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Am I to take it, Sir, that the policy has not yet been formulated, but is only being examined?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" It has not yet been formulated, Sir."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" From the reply to a former question put to the Hon. Minister, I understood him to say that the Government have formulated their policy, but now the Hon. Minister says that their policy has not been formulated. May I know, Sir, what is the correct answer?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" I believe, Sir, that I have replied that with regard to the co-operative house-building, the policy has been formulated, but not with regard to industrial housing."

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government will consider the question of providing houses for agricultural labourers?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" That question comes under rural housing schemes, Sir, and it will be considered along with rural development schemes."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, as a result of the Government's urban housing policy, may I know how many houses have been constructed since the policy was formulated?"

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THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" I have answered this question just a few days ago in this House, and I do not have any figures now, Sir."

Manufacture of Vanaspathi.

* 50 Q.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the article entitled " Research on Vanaspathi " published in the *Harijan* of 29th May 1949 at page 101 and the article entitled " Hydrogenated Oils " published in the same journal on 25th September 1949 at page 246;

(b) whether the Government have taken any action to prevent the manufacture of vanaspathi; and

(c) if not, why not?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) & (c) Pending the results of the investigations that are being conducted at the instance of the Government of India on the nutritive value of vanaspathi, the Government do not propose to discourage the manufacture of vanaspathi."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, if the writer of this article has said that there are different views in regard to the nutritive value of vanaspathi and that he has dealt with only one aspect of it? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Sir, let me read an extract of an article which appeared in the *Harijan* by one of the writers. He says ' . . . ' But I should like to base the case against vanaspathi on grounds other than health reports of experts. Unfortunately, the profession of technical experts has become as mercinary as any other and it would not be difficult to get another body of experts of equally high degree to produce a report of just the opposite type of the above . . . "

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Will the Government constitute a committee of experts to examine this question and then come to a decision in the matter, and not be guided by the views of any writer of articles in journals? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" That is a very difficult matter to reply now. In case we propose to constitute a committee of experts, we will take the assistance of my hon. Friend in that committee."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that one of the committees which examined this question of the nutritive value of Vanaspathi and Vanaspathi products has come to the conclusion that they are deleterious to the health of the person and that their manufacture should be discouraged? "